

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02624 081416Z

46

ACTION IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2276

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, RQ, VE

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 49330, STATE 49329

1. POL COUNSELOR DISCUSSED AT LENGTH U.S. POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO ON MARCH 4 WITH A COUNSELOR IN THE INTERNATIONAL POLICY DIRECTORATE IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (JESUS MARIA PONCE). POL COUNSELOR ORALLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF THIS MATTER TO THE U.S. AND NOTED THAT SHOULD IT BE RAISED BY THE CUBANS IT COULD IMPACT UNFAVORABLY ON THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. PONCE TOOK CAREFUL NOTES. HE INDICATED THAT THE GOV HAS NO INTEREST IN RAISING IN THE UN OR ANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUM THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO.

2. ON MARCH 3 EMBOFFS, IN COURSE OF DISCUSSION OF THE RECENT CIEC COMMISSION MEETINGS IN PARIS WITH STAFF OF THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ISSUES SUCH AS THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO HAD NOT BEEN RAISED AT LAST MONTH'S MANILA MEETING. VENEZUELANS SAID THAT THE ONLY POLITICAL ISSUE WHICH SURFACED AT THAT MEETING WAS THE QUESTION OF ADMISSION OF THE PLO TO OBSERVER STATUS IN THE G-77. SINCE CONSENSUS IS REQUIRED FOR ITS DECISIONS, SAID THE VENEZUELANS, THE G-77 IS TRYING TO AVOID DEVISIVE PERIPHERAL MATTERS WHICH WOULD OTHER-
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PAGE 02 CARACA 02624 081416Z

WISE UPSET ITS MEETINGS.

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Message Attributes

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